different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. In terms of RDG, all scheduled airlines are required to deploy at least 10% of the capacity deployed by them on trunk routes (i.e. Category-I routes), on the routes to North Eastern States, J&K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (Category -II routes) Airlines also have to deploy 50% of the capacity deployed on Category I routes on Category III routes (i.e. routes other than Category-I &l II routes).

Number of people Below Poverty Line

4670. SHRI P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

the number of people Below Poverty Line at the beginning of the Tenth Plan and the number as on today;

the Eleventh Plan target of reducing the number of people Below Poverty Line; and

the time -frame by which Government expect to bring all the people out of the BPL level, and the action plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The two closest years for which poverty estimates around the beginning of the Tenth Plan and today are available relate to 1999-2000 and 2004-05. In 1999-2000,260.25 million people were estimated to live below the poverty line. The poverty estimates in 2004-05 are based on URP consumption distribution (Uniform Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30-day recall period) and MRP consumption distribution (Mixed Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for five nonfood items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365-day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from

30-day recall period). In 2004-05, 301.7 million people are estimated to live below the poverty line as per URP consumption distribution, and 238.50 million people are estimated to live below the poverty line as per MRP consumption distribution

(b) and (c) The Eleventh Plan is under formulation. However, the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan has set reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points during the Plan Period.

The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets building for the poor. A number of programmes/Schemes have been introduced by the Government from time to time to improve the condition of the people living below the poverty in rural and urban areas.

Policy for regulatory organisation

4671. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that a new policy for laying down norms/policy to govern all regulatory organisations such as SEBI TRAI and IRDA has been formulated;

if so, the details thereof;

the salient feature of this policy;

in what manner it would safeguard the interests of consumers; and

to what extent such a policy decision by the Planning Commission for establishment of multi-sector regulator would benefit Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) The National Common Minimum